

Washington, D.C.— Today, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) released the following statement in response to the anticipated vote this week on the House Republican budget plan that would end Medicare as we know it:

"It is reprehensible that, instead of coming to the table for a serious discussion on how to cut spending and reduce our national debt in a sensible way, Republicans are, once again, asking seniors and middle-class families to be the first to sacrifice, even while oil companies aren't being asked to give up a penny in special tax benefits. The Ryan Plan undercuts America's future by slashing education, high-tech research, and energy development. To make matters worse, the Republicans' budget is an insult to our nation's veterans and law enforcement with drastic cuts to programs that support these brave men and women. And, just like last year, this budget will end Medicare as we know it and actually increase out-of-pocket healthcare expenses by thousands of dollars for current seniors. We cannot expect to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, veterans and the middle class."